

The rebuilt Soda Butte Creek historical channel, near Cooke City, Montana. The original channel was buried under a tailings impoundment that was removed in 2012-2013.



The removal of a leaking underground storage tank at a Petroleum Tank cleanup site.



The removal of liquid-like sludge on the eastern portion of the KRY Site in the Evergreen area of Kalispell, Montana.

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Remediation Division

The Department of Environmental Quality's mission is to protect, sustain, and improve a clean and healthful environment to benefit present and future generations.

It is the mission of the Remediation Division to protect human health and the environment by preventing exposure to contaminants released to soil or water, and to oversee compliance with state and federal laws and regulations.



New willow growth along the Clark Fork River where contaminated mine waste was removed in 2013.

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Remediation Division

The Remediation Division is one of four divisions under the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This division is responsible for overseeing investigation and cleanup activities at state and federal Superfund sites, reclaiming abandoned mine lands, implementing corrective actions at sites with leaking petroleum storage tanks, and overseeing groundwater remediation at sites where agricultural and industrial chemical spills have caused groundwater contamination.

These activities are to protect human health and the environment, to prevent unacceptable exposure of potential human and ecological receptors to hazardous or deleterious substances that have been released to air, soil, sediment, surface water or groundwater, and to ensure compliance with applicable state and federal regulations.

The division's Federal Superfund and Construction Bureau, the Hazardous Waste Cleanup Bureau and its respective sections, and the Abandoned Mine Lands section facilitate site cleanups. Program staff includes bureau chiefs, section supervisors, environmental science specialists, reclamation specialists, and other technical program staff. The Division Administrator oversees and ensures program administration, with support from administrative and fiscal professional staff.

ABANDONED MINE LANDS SECTION

The Abandoned Mine Lands Section is responsible for cleanup and reclamation of historic (pre-1977) mining-related disturbances. The program is funded by a federal grant under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act under Montana's Abandoned Mine Reclamation State Plan.

FEDERAL SUPERFUND AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES BUREAU

The Federal Superfund and Construction Bureau is responsible for administering remedial cleanup activities, in consultation with the EPA, at certain fed-

eral Superfund, or National Priority List (NPL) sites in Montana. In addition, it oversees state provisions of the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act at the remaining NPL sites. Construction Services is responsible for cleanup of contamination along Silver Bow Creek, the Clark Fork River, the Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex and the Black Pine Mine.



View of the Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex Repository in 2013 from the mountain east of Nora Gulch.

HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP BUREAU

STATE SUPERFUND UNIT

There are two sections within the State Superfund Unit, the Site Response Section and the State Superfund Section. The State Superfund Unit administers the Comprehensive Environmental Cleanup and Responsibility Act (CECRA or state Superfund) and the Water Quality Act (WQA) to investigate and clean up hazardous substances at sites not addressed by the federal Superfund.

PETROLEUM TANK CLEANUP

The Petroleum Tank Cleanup Section directs and oversees investigation and cleanup of petroleum releases being conducted by petroleum storage tank owners and operators. Petroleum releases typi-

cally occur at service stations, convenience stores, fleet fueling facilities, bulk plants, rail road yards, home heating oil tanks, farms, ranches, and other facilities where petroleum products are stored, distributed or used. This section also administers the Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Trust program. The LUST Trust program conducts investigation and remediation activities at release sites that threaten human health and the environment where: (1) the release source is unknown or (2) the tank owner is unable or unwilling to perform the work themselves or (3) in response to catastrophic high-risk sites where DEQ determines that the state actions are necessary to address immediate risks to human health or the environment.



Absorbent pads soaking up free product at a Petroleum Tank Cleanup Site.

FEDERAL FACILITIES AND BROWNFIELDS

The Federal Facilities and Brownfields Section directs and oversees the investigation and cleanup of petroleum and hazardous substance releases at federally-owned facilities within the state. This section also helps coordinates efforts and leverage Brownfields funding sources of state, local government, economic development authorities and the federal EPA to facilitate the investigation and cleanup of underutilized properties with environmental concerns.